

CALLIOPE Rootz

Dear Friend
of Calliope:
After nearly 30 years of
being part of
Pittsburgh's thriving
non-profit arts
community, Calliope
is looking for ways to
re-energize our
"brand." To that end,
we're fortunate
enough to be able to
enlist the help of
nonprofit manage-
ment guru, Dan
Martin, Director,
Institute for the
Management of
Creative Enterprise,
Carnegie Mellon
University. Under
Dan's able direction,
we kicked off our
strategic planning
process last September
by hosting an open
meeting of folks
interested in our
organization. We
received lots of
wonderful ideas about
how to make the next
30 years even better,
however, if you missed
the meeting, it's not
too late. Call us, write
us, or e-mail us at:
Calliope
10 Bedford Square
Pittsburgh PA 15203
412/432-0333
calliope@calliopehouse.org

Steve Weber
President
Calliope Board
of Directors



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2004

Calliope Makes Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Top Ten Lists

photo by Dave Dutzik

BEST COUNTRY SHOWS 2004

8. DOC WATSON

Nov. 19, Carnegie Lecture Hall

It was an honor and privilege to be among the capacity crowd permitted to share the music of blind, 81-year-old country legend Doc Watson, a guitar picker who hasn't slowed down since the 1950s. And thank you, Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, for being the only promoter willing to bring him to Pittsburgh.

Calliope Meets the Cultural District @ La Prima Espresso

It may not be Gerde's Folk City yet - but it could be. Calliope Night at La Prima is bringing the best of the best of Pittsburgh's local acoustic music talent to perform in La Prima's beautiful and cozy café, located at 811 Liberty Avenue. Every Friday brings a different musician. Shows start @ 6:30 PM. The events are a joint effort of Calliope and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. It's so Positively Fourth Street, we hope you'll be there. Here's what's coming up:

3/25 John Hayes & Friends (contemporary folk music)

4/29 Robert Wagner (original folk/rock)

6/24 Danger Dog (acoustic music by a string trio)

Student Showcase

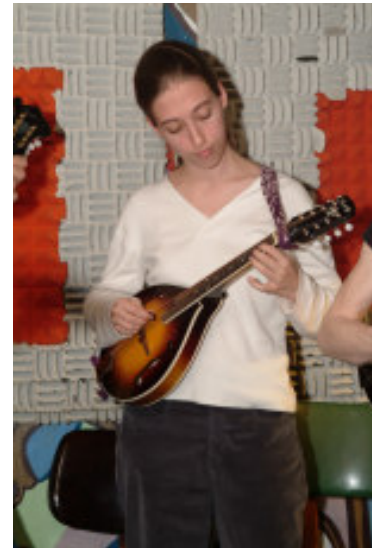
photos by Joe Reibling

LOOKING FOR A BLUEGRASS JAM?

They're not just happening in Pittsburgh. Check out the Calendar page at www.calliopehouse.org for jams in the 412 area code and beyond. Call before heading out – events may be cancelled in bad weather.



There's no formal graduation ceremony for students at the Calliope School of Folk Music. Instead, they get to bust a jam at a Student Showcase, showing off their new musical chops with fellow students and teachers. Pictures above are from a recent Student Showcase at the Quiet Storm coffee-house in Friendship.



Valentine's Day is around the corner. Don't forget the folk music lover in your life. Calliope long-sleeve t-shirts are toasty warm, hugely stylish, and appropriate for almost any occasion. Only \$12. Available @ any Calliope concert or by calling 412/432-0333.



Celtic Corner

By Kathy Fallon



So what if Riverdance has waned in popularity and the only people you see coming close to being able to dance like that are half your age! It's not the end of Celtic culture in Pittsburgh, by far. In fact, Pittsburgh has a rich heritage from the immigrants of Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

If you're reading this because you're interested in folk music and culture you might be surprised to know how many special and ongoing events are available to you, especially at this time of the year. Make it this year's goal to explore your Celtic roots.

IRISH, SCOTTISH AND WELSH EVENTS



Saturday, Mar. 12th - Karan Casey in concert, sponsored by Calliope. Opening Act: The Rolling Scones. Karan Casey is one of the most popular voices in Irish music today. A former member of Solas, Karan has branched out on her own with a varied and pleasing repertoire.

Thursday, Mar. 17th - Happy St. Pat's! The All-Ireland Athletic Club, Pittsburgh's oldest Irish association, is holding a ceili at the VFW Hall in Squirrel Hill. This is as close to the real thing as you'll find - a small room with a bar, lively traditional Irish music, and people who want to talk and dance. Call Chuck McHugh at 724/864-0994 for admission price and directions.



The 2nd Saturday of every month, from September to June, at 8:00 PM, the All-Ireland Athletic Association sponsors a ceili at the VFW Hall in Squirrel Hill. Contact Chuck McHugh at 724/864-0994 for more info. There is a nominal cover charge for this event if you are not a member.

Want to learn to play Irish music? Calliope and CCE have teamed up to teach classes in Traditional Irish Repertoire, Fiddle, Bodhran, and Irish Guitar Accompaniment. Check out their Spring Class offerings at www.calliopehouse.org.

Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 12th and 13th - 24th Annual Highland Ball at the George Washington Hotel in Washington, PA. Visit the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dance Society website at www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/jm5h/pscds.html for more details.

Interested in learning Bagpipes? George Balderose, the founder of Calliope, teaches classes for the Calliope Folk Music School. Visit our Web site for Spring Class times and levels. Or contact George at info@bagpipng.org.

Pennsylvania has the largest concentration of Welsh descendants of immigrants in the nation. Just look at a PA map for an abundance of Welsh place-names! The St. David's Society of Pittsburgh is starting to gear up with more events and a drive to install a nationality room in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. If you would like to receive a newsletter from the St. David's Society contact Jeannie Lanigan at welshwoman@comcast.com.



CALLIOPE WISH LIST

The Calliope office is looking for a gently used laptop and digital camera. If you've recently upgraded either, consider making a donation to Calliope. In return, you'll get a tax deduction letter and our eternal gratitude.

Hank Williams Meets Bertolt Brecht At the Starlite Lounge's Three Penny Opry Evening

The Three Penny Opry is an evening of acoustic music and song-swapping that takes place the first Saturday of each month in the back room of The Starlite Lounge in Blawnox (near Moondogs and Pianos & Stuff).

Think of it as Hank Williams meets Bertolt Brecht, or June Carter-Cash meets Carl Sandburg. The back room of The Starlite Lounge seats about 40 people. There is a small sound system, but the objective is to keep the volume low and the performances as intimate as possible. Although people can drink, talk and smoke in the outer bar, there is no talking or smoking in the back room during the performances, and children are welcome if accompanied by a parent.

Formal start time is 8:00 PM, but the music usually starts around 7:45 and seats fill up early. These family-friendly shows conclude by 10:45 or 11:00. There's no charge at the door, but a guest-emcee passes the hat several times during the course of the evening, and the performers take equal shares of the donations.

The Starlite Lounge is located at 364 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Call (412) 828-9842 for more information about upcoming acts.

Robert Wagner



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